



MP-1681 \$

Case S03108-00-US

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Tou et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/541,844

FILED: April 3, 2000

TITLE: METHOD OF REMOVING N-TERMINAL ALANINE RESIDUES FROM POLYPEPTIDES WITH AEROMONAS AMINOPEPTIDASE

DOCKET NO: S03108-00-US

GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

EXAMINER: J. Weber

DATE: Monday, July 9, 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2300

Certification of Mailing

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231
on Monday, July 9, 2001.

Verne A. Luckow

Registration No. 45,950

Verne A. Luckow Date: 7-9-2001

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND MINOR INFORMALITIES

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are in response to the restriction requirement of the Official Office Action dated March 30, 2001, as paper number 5, for application number 09/541,844, filed April 3, 2000. A three month extension of time is included with this reply.

REMARKS

Restriction

Restriction was imposed among three groups of claimed subject matter: Group I, Claims 1-14, drawn to a first method, removing N-terminal Ala from a peptide with aminopeptidase, classified in class 435, subclass 68.1; Group II, Claim 15, drawn to a peptide lacking an N-terminal peptide, classified in class 530, subclasses 300+, 350+; and Group III, Claims 16-21, drawn to a second method, removing N-terminal amino acids with aminopeptidase, classified in class 435, subclass 68.1.

The examiner considers Invention I or III to be distinct from Invention II, by being related as process of making and product made. In this case, the product can be prepared by many other techniques, such as solid